4/A RuB 1-16-03

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:

Before the Examiner:

Achtermann et al.

Todd, Gregory

Serial No.: 09/438,436

Group Art Unit: 2157

Filed: November 12, 1999

IBM Corporation

Title: AN APPARATUS FOR CONNECTION MANAGEMENT AND THE METHOD THEREFOR Intellectual Property Law 11400 Burnet Road

Austin, Texas 78758

REPLY UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111

RECEIVED

JAN 1 5 2003

Box Non-Fee Amendment Assistant Commissioner for Patents Washington, D. C. 20231

Technology Center 2100

Dear Sir:

In response to the Office Action having a mailing date of October 17, 2002 (Paper No. 3), having a three-month shortened statutory period for response set to expire on January 17, 2003, please reconsider the rejections of the claims in view of the following remarks:

CERTIFICATION UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.8

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to Box Non-Fee Amendment, Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231, on January 7, 2003.

Signature

Serena Beller

(Printed name of person certifying)